

as many settlements as possible irrespective of the government policy or the indigenous resistance. This resulted in the settlement movement referred to as the "Tower and Stockade" (Rosen, et., al, 1983:1). Irrespective of their size, the fertility of the land or who might inhabit them, Kibbutzim during this period were stockpiled. It was reported that some Kibbutzim were erected in a matter of single days. The only consideration in this movement was to make sure that Kibbutzim would serve as observation sites and border security for the future Jewish state.

There are various interpretations as to why the government allowed this movement to precede. Some authors suggest that during this period, the Zionist movement has begun to establish itself as a potent independent political and military power (Rayman, 1981:38). Yet, others maintain that the Zionist lobby in London has always been successful in defeating all government decisions including all "White Papers" introduced during the British rule (Stein, 1984:135).

While there is some truth in their claims, authors here provide a simplistic answer to a much more complex situation. A partial explanation of the Zionist expansionist policies can be found in the fact that while the government did not approve of their policy, it felt that it could not afford to open another battle front with them. Moreover, in 1937 the government was pre-occupied with crushing the Palestinian revolution which had gained control over a wide area in central and northern Palestine. (37) They were able to take advantage of the growing military power of the Zionists in order to help quell this revolution. Jewish settlers, as the Secretary of States for the Colonies wrote to the High Commissioner in 1937, "were reliable in the police and armed forces". (38)